Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A right-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating right-information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a first portable electronic device when the right-information is stored in said first portable electronic device;

generating a right code by encrypting the right-information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline;

communicating the right code to said first portable electronic device by wirelessly coupling a second portable electronic device to said first portable electronic device, wherein said second portable electronic device is operable independent of a connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the right code into said first portable electronic device by ~~a~~ the user;

decrypting the right code communicated to said first portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the right-information based on the decrypted right code; and

storing the authenticated right-information in said first portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by ~~a~~ the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein the right-information includes information which permits admission to a predetermined place.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein said first portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card and said second portable electronic device includes an input means.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 3, wherein the storing of the right-information is performed when said first portable electronic device and said second portable electronic device are electromagnetically coupled with each other.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a first right code added to the right-information, and an identification number for returning the right-information to a source of the right-information; and after confirming the input first right code and the input identification number, confirming an offline-providable second right code for returning the right-information to said source of the right-information, and invalidating said first right code.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A right-information distribution method for transferring right-information from a first portable electronic device to a second portable electronic device, the right-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating the right-information and verification information for authenticating the validity of said first portable electronic device when the right-information is stored in said first portable electronic device;

generating a first right code by encrypting the right-information and the verification information, wherein said first right code is provided to a user offline;

enabling the user to wirelessly input the first right code and identification number of said second portable electronic device directly into said first portable electronic device

independently of a connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated first right code being represented to the user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

confirming the wireless input of the first right code and the wireless input of the identification number;

invalidating the first right code and generating a second right code, wherein said second right code is provided to the user offline;

enabling the user to input the second right code into said second portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated second right code being represented to the user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

decoding the offline-provided second right code inputted into the portable electronic device and authenticating the decoded second right code; and

storing the right-information included in the authenticated second right code in said second portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by ~~a~~ the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information distribution system comprising:

a portable electronic device; and

an information management apparatus configured to store (i) right-information that indicates a predetermined right and (ii) device information corresponding to said portable electronic device that indicates to whom the predetermined right belongs, wherein said information distribution system manages the location of said predetermined right by updating the right-information stored by said information management apparatus and the device information indicating to whom said predetermined right belongs;
said information management apparatus comprising:

information holding means for holding the right-information;

access means for recording the transfer of said predetermined right to said portable electronic device by accessing said information holding means and updating the right-information held by said information holding means;

encryption means for generating encrypted information by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the device information indicating to whom said right belongs to be in an offline providable form; and

information providing means for providing said portable electronic device with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and said portable electronic device comprises:

power supply;

input means for wirelessly accepting the input of the encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented to a user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

decryption means for decrypting the encrypted information using said unique code and outputting the information indicating to whom said right belongs;

recording means for recording the output information indicating to whom said right belongs; and

information output means for using a predetermined access means to output the recorded information indicating to whom said right belongs,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by ~~a~~ the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said device information indicating to whom said right belongs is information for permitting admission to a predetermined place.

Claim 10 (Original): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by said information providing means.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

information generating means for generating information for requesting the transfer of said right based on the information recorded in said recording means;

means for generating encrypted transfer information by using a code unique to encrypt the information for requesting the transfer of said right so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means;

output means for outputting the encrypted transfer information so that the encrypted transfer information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

said information management apparatus further comprises a decryption means for decrypting the encrypted transfer information, and updates right-information which corresponds to the output of said decryption means by using said access means to access said information holding means in response to the output of said decryption means.

Claim 12 (Original): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by the information providing means, and changes the billing in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

encryption means for generating second encrypted information based on the information recorded in said recording means by using a code unique to a second portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided off line;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means; and

output means for outputting the second encrypted information so that the second encrypted information is provided to the second portable electronic device after passing through an offline channel at least once; and the second portable electronic device performs the processing of the second encrypted information, which is identical to the processing of the encrypted information by said portable electronic device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An information management method for updating right-information held by an information management apparatus and for recording in a portable electronic device information indicating to whom said right belongs, managing said right so as to be exercised when said portable electronic device is with a user, wherein said information management method controls said information management apparatus to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted information in an offline providable form using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the portable electronic device information indicating to whom said right belongs;

providing the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

enabling the wireless input of said encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in at least one of an audible and visible form,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by ~~a~~ the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 15 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein the billing is performed in response to the provision of the encrypted information.

Claim 16 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted transfer information by using a unique code to encrypt information for requesting the transfer of said right so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline; and

preventing the information indicating to whom said right belongs from being output, and transmitting the encrypted transfer information to said information management apparatus so that the encrypted transfer information passes through the offline channel at least once.

Claim 17 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 16, wherein said information management method controls said image management apparatus to perform the steps of:

executing a billing process in response to the provision of the encrypted information; and changing said billing process in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 18 (Original): An information management method according, to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating second encrypted information based on the information indicating to whom said right belongs by using a code unique to another portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided offline; and

providing the second encrypted information to the other portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information passes through the offline channel at least once; and

outputting the second encrypted information and preventing the information indicating to whom said right belongs from being output.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein said portable electronic device includes a read-write device in electromagnetic communication with an integrated circuit card, wherein the input means are included on the read-write device.

Claim 20 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein the information indicating to whom said right belongs is information for allowing said user to enter an event place.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A method of distributing information, the method comprising:

providing a first portable device;

generating right-information representative of a user right;

generating verification information for authenticating the validity of the right-information and the first portable electronic device;

storing the right-information and the verification information on the first portable device;

encrypting the right-information and the verification information to generate a right code;

providing a second portable device, the second portable device configured to wirelessly communicate with the first portable device;

inputting the right code into the second portable device and wirelessly communicating the right code to the first portable electronic;

decrypting the right-information and the verification information based on the right code communicated to the first portable electronic device, and

utilizing the verification information to authenticate the right-information stored on the first portable electronic device; and

storing the authenticated right-information on the first portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by ~~a~~ the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 21 further comprising providing an indication of the right code to a user.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein the indication is an audible indication or a visible indication.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said first portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card and said second portable electronic device includes an input device.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein providing the second portable device includes electromagnetically coupling the second portable device to the first portable device.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein electromagnetically coupling the second portable device to the first portable device provides driving power to the second portable device.

Claim 27 (New): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein the right-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by the user to a second portable electronic device associated with a second user by generating a second right code by encrypting the right-information and second verification information, wherein the second right code is provided to the second user offline.

Claim 28 (New): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein inputting the right code into said first portable electronic device by the user includes:

the user sensing the right code represented in at least one of the audible and visible form;

the user manually inputting the right code into an input device of the second portable electronic device; and

transmitting the right code to the first portable electronic device from the second portable electronic device.